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Friends of Michigan History, Inc.

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Michigan Historical Museum

Lansing, Michigan

May 10, 2010

Call to Order

President Bus Spaniola called the of the Board of Directors (Board) meeting of the Friends of Michigan History, Inc. (Friends) to order at 10:02 A.M.

Board Members Present: Andy Andersen, Larry Griffin, Keith Harrison, John Irwin, Rose Moye, Richard Johnson, Ralph Sims, Bus Spaniola, Louise Stilwill, Paul Tarr, Morris Thomas, Tom Truscott and Geneva Wiskemann.

Board Members Absent: Adriana Greci Green, Charles Seeley, and Bill Wellman.

Board Members Excused: Adriana Greci Green, Charles Seeley, and Bill Wellman.

Michigan Historical Museum (Museum) Staff Present: Martha Bloomfield.

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda as transmitted; motion passed.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the April 2010 meeting minutes as transmitted; motion passed.

President's Report

President Spaniola mentioned that the Breckenridge-Wheeler Area Historical Society would be holding a dedication ceremony on May 22, 2010 at 10 AM in Breckenridge, Michigan to unveil a historical marker to commemorate the Drake Memorial House, which is now designated by the state of Michigan as a Historic Landmark.

President Spaniola reported that the Michigan History Foundation was in the process of amending its bylaws. One of the proposed bylaw changes was to change the voting status of the President of Friends from that as a voting member to an exofficio member of the Foundation. Discussion among the Friends ensued, the tenor of which considered the change of the long-standing relationship between the Friends and the Foundation was highly parochial and totally inappropriate especially at a time when the need for even greater, not less, cooperation between the two organizations was paramount.

President Spaniola and others reported on the recent meeting of the Foundation, Docents, Friends, Museum, and Michigan History Society. The meeting was a total failure primarily because the person who was selected to be the facilitator totally dominated the meeting and no one else got an opportunity to discuss the issues.

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FRIENDS OF MICHIGAN HISTORY, INC MEETING MINUTES

May 10, 2010

Page 2

A motion was made and seconded to create a special committee to look at the at relationships and tasks between the Friends, Foundation, Museum, Docent Guild and the Michigan History Society, and then to come back to the Board by the annual meeting with recommendations to facilitate cooperation; motion passed.

Paul Tarr was designated the chair of the committee. Others on the committee were Rose Moye, Tom Truscott, and Larry Griffin. Secretary Harrison indicated that he would send out a copy of the 2009 agreement between the Friends, Museum, and Foundation for the special committee to use as starting point.

President Spaniola indicated that a nominating committee was needed to develop a slate of Friends corporate officers for 2010-2011. President Spaniola appointed Tom Truscott, Morris Thomas, and Larry Griffin to the committee. Both President Spaniola and Secretary Harrison indicated that they would not be candidates for their respective positions.

Treasurer Report

April 1 - 30, 2010			
BALANCE	4-01-10		4,584.09
DEPOSIT			
	4-06-10		<u>+ 666.30</u>
			5,250.39
Cashed Checks			
	1499	Historic Ft Wayne	75.00
	1500	HSOM	287.28
	1501	M. Bloomfield	<u>27.40</u>
Total			389.68
			-389.68
BALANCE	4-30-10		4860.71
Uncashed Checks			
	1498	Statehood Day	150.00
			- 150.00
Available Funds			..4,710.71
Benevolent Fund		\$ 50.00	

A motion was made and seconded to approve, as transmitted the Treasurer's report for the period April 1 – 30, 2010; motion passed.

Presentation of Bills

No bills that were not otherwise previously approved were presented.

Museum Report

Nothing to report.

Committee Reports

A. 2010 Veterans Day Program Committee. (Paul Tarr and Larry Griffin – Co chairs): It was reported that the Tuskegee Airman and Col. Victor Kucher, US Air Force, were still options at this point for the program. Concern was expressed that we need to ensure that Veterans are

FRIENDS OF MICHIGAN HISTORY, INC MEETING MINUTES

May 10, 2010

Page 3

not charged to attend the veteran program.

B. *Membership Committee (Keith Harrison – Chair)*. It was reported that arrangements had been made to have our display at the 2010 AgExpo, July 20 -22, 2010. Assignments to staff the display table will be arranged for at a later date.

A motion was made and seconded to authorize up to \$300 to print 1,000 brochures; motion passed.

A motion was made and seconded to authorize up to \$100 to print 250 membership return envelopes; motion passed.

Ralph Sims indicated that the 17th annual Lansing Juneteenth Celebration would again be held in Lansing at St. Joseph Park on June 17 - 19, 2010.

A motion was made and seconded to authorize up to \$100 to have the Friends Display at the upcoming 17th Annual Lansing Juneteenth Celebration; motion passed.

Ralph Sims will be the Friends' coordinator for making the arrangements and the display staffing.

C. *Board Nominating Committee (Tom Truscott - Chair)*. Nothing more was reported by this committee.

D. *Magazine/Military Committee (Paul Tarr – Chair)*. No report.

E. *Grants Committee (Rose Moyer - Chair)*. No report.

F. *Newsletter Committee (Paul Tarr and Bill Wellman, Co-chairs)*. It was requested that material for the newsletter needed to be in by May 25, 2010. It was suggested that announcements from the Friends' affiliates should be included.

G. *Fund Raising Committee (Bus Spaniola - Chair)*. Rose Moyer reported on the potential to have Morris Thomas provide and donate for a Friends' program his presentation on Michigan historical geography. She provided a mock-up of a flyer that could be used. It was indicated that she and Morris need to see about arranging a date at the Museum where the Friends could obtain free use of the auditorium and then report back to the Board.

H. *Calendar (2011) Committee (Tom Truscott & Rose Moyer, Co-chairs)*. No report.

I. *Bylaws (Paul Tarr – Chair)*. Paul Tarr passed out a set of proposed bylaw changes that will be looked at in September.

Old Business

A. *IRS Group Exemption Application Status*. There has been no notification regarding the Friends' letter application to the Internal Revenue Service for a Group Exemption Number.

FRIENDS OF MICHIGAN HISTORY, INC MEETING MINUTES
May 10, 2010
Page 4

New Business

A. Battle Streamers for Jackson Civil War Muster.

A motion was made and seconded to authorize up to \$300 for battle streamers for the 26th annual Jackson, Michigan Cascades Civil War Muster; motion passed.

Announcements

Secretary Harrison reported that on April 22, 2010, the Michigan Historical Commission unanimously adopted a motion to formally approve a partnership between its Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee and the Civil War History Partners Steering Group for the purposes of carrying out, and as decreed in, Executive Order 2007-52, the commemoration of Michigan's role in the Civil War.

The Civil War History Partners currently is composed of five subgroups:

- (1) Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War/Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States,
- (2) Reenactments/Living Histories
- (3) Museums/Roundtables,
- (4) Libraries/Historical/Genealogical Societies, and
- (5) Publicity.

Each of the subgroups has a facilitator assigned to it: Keith Harrison (Subgroup #1), Tom Berlucchii and Dave Downing (Subgroup #2), John Gibney (Subgroup #3), Bruce Butgereit (Subgroup #4) and no one yet for Subgroup #5. A sixth subgroup is planned on being developed and would include such Michigan Civil War historians as David Finney and Roger Rosentreter. Secretary Harrison is the overall chair of the Civil War History Partners Steering Group.

Secretary Harrison requested consideration by the Friends to come up with ways to be involved in this important 5-year endeavor. One such role of the Friends would be to assist in the creation of a monument to recognized the role of Michigan's own 102nd USCT in the Civil War.

A fund raising suggestion was made to investigate the possibility of the Friends to obtain access to original vendor that produced the *Thank god for Michigan* mugs and shirts that was previously used by the state.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:59 AM.

Respectively submitted,

Keith G. Harrison

Keith G. Harrison, Secretary
Board of Directors
Friends of Michigan History, Inc.

The next Board meeting (and Annual Meeting) will be Monday, June 14, 2010, in Lansing.

